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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

NOTE ON AN ORGANISM FOUND IN YELLOW-FEVER TISSUE.

[By Asst. Surg. A. M. Stimson, Hygienic Laboratory, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

The spirochaetal origin of yellow fever has been suggested by Schaudinn and by Novy, but so far as I know no organism belonging to the genus *Spirochaeta* has been reported as having been found in yellow-fever tissues. I have examined some tissues for this class of organisms, using the method of Levaditi, as employed for the demonstration of *Treponema pallidum* in syphilis. The available yellow-fever material was unfortunately limited to the tissues from one case, all other specimens having been fixed otherwise than in formalin, which is required by Levaditi's method. The brain, liver, heart, and kidneys were examined. Nothing of special interest was observed in the first three, but in the kidney a very definite organism was found, having the following characters: Color, opaque black, in sharp contrast to the surrounding tissues; general appearance strongly suggesting a *spirochaete*; often irregularly curved, but some individuals having a regular series of alternate curves, no other indication of segments being observed; one or both extremities often bent back in the form of a hook; entire length variable up to $14\ \mu$ or more; width estimated at $\frac{1}{8}\ \mu$; length of short curves, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\ \mu$. It was confined to the cells and lumina of the tubules of the kidney, none being observed in the blood vessels, glomeruli, or interstitial tissue. While in some fields no organisms were present, in others large numbers were crowded together or scattered individuals were observed. The kidney from another case of yellow fever, where the tissue had been fixed in bichloride of mercury and acetic acid, was examined, and while no stained organisms were found, structures resembling those described were present in an unstained condition. The organisms were not found in kidney tissue from a patient dying of malaria, although the tissue was properly fixed and stained.

The object of this report is simply to invite attention to the findings in a single case, since no opinion as to the significance of this organism can be formed from such meager data. For convenience of reference I would suggest that the organism be called (*?Spirochaeta interrogans*, the specific name being suggested by the form, somewhat resembling a question mark, which the organism frequently assumed in my preparations.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Report from San Francisco, Cal.—Cerebro-spinal meningitis in San Francisco and in the Sacramento Valley.

Surgeon Austin reports, April 25:

Cerebro-spinal meningitis is prevailing in San Francisco. The board of health states that 12 deaths have occurred in the city from the disease since April 1, and that there are 15 cases at present in the city. Buildings in which the disease has occurred are disinfected by the board of health. A special dispatch from Sacramento, Cal., states that the entire Sacramento Valley is alarmed at the epidemic of